GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:317
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
STRENGTHENING OF HEALTH SECTOR
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Lack of accountability and quality in health sector` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 11, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the plan of the Government to strengthen the health sector further?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Some of the participants at the Pravasi Bharitiya Divas Celebrations had expressed concern about the state of health care in India. Health being a State subject, State Governments are primarily responsible for preventive, promotive and curative aspects of health care services. However, for control of major diseases like Malaria, T.B., Leprosy, Blindness, HIV/AIDS, etc as well as for Reproductive and Child Health related activities, the Central Government has been providing funds and technical assistance to State Governments. The Central Government has also taken initiatives to get State Health System Development Projects with World Bank assistance aimed at improving and upgrading the secondary level health care facilities in seven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Funds are also provided under Pradhanmantri Gramodaya Yojana for improving functional status of rural primary health care Institutions.

The National Health Policy 2002 announced by the Central Government envisages increasing public health investment to 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the year 2010 from the existing 0.9%.The Tenth Plan Outlay for the Central Health Sector has been fixed at Rs.9253 crores compared to Rs.5118 crores during the Ninth Plan to improve the health care facilities.